

## CLAIMS

[0021] What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

adjusting the clock speed of a central processing unit (CPU) as a function of the output of a performance monitor forming part of an operating system controlling said CPU.

2. A method according to claim 1 and wherein said output comprises a measure of CPU utilization.

3. A method according to claim 2 and wherein said adjusting comprises lowering said clock speed by a predefined amount when said CPU utilization goes below a given utilization percentage, down to a minimum CPU speed.

4 A method according to claim 2 and wherein said adjusting comprises raising said clock speed by a predefined amount when said CPU utilization goes above a given utilization percentage, up to a maximum CPU speed.

5. A method according to claim 1 and wherein said CPU is powered by a battery.

6. A method according to claim 5 and wherein said CPU forms part of a movable computing unit.

7. A method according to claim 1 and wherein said CPU is powered by a non-battery power source.

8. A method according to claim 1 and wherein said CPU forms part of a household appliance.

9. A power saving device comprising:

a CPU;

a clock to provide timing indications to said CPU;

a performance monitor to generate measurements of said CPU's performance; and

a rate setter to change the speed of said clock as a function of at least some of the output of said performance monitor.

10. A device according to claim 9 and wherein said output comprises a measure of CPU utilization.

11. A device according to claim 10 and wherein said rate setter lowers said clock speed by a predefined amount when said CPU utilization goes below a given utilization percentage, down to a minimum CPU speed.

12. A device according to claim 10 and wherein said rate setter raises said clock speed by a predefined amount when said CPU utilization goes above a given utilization percentage, up to a maximum CPU speed.

13. A device according to claim 9 and also comprising a battery to power said CPU.

14. A device according to claim 13 and wherein said device is a movable computing device.

15. A device according to claim 9 and also comprising a plug to connect to a non-battery power source.

16. A device according to claim 9 and wherein said device is a household appliance.